SAVING MONEY AND ENERGY IN PUBLIC HOUSING: A DOE-HUD COLLABORATION



What's the big idea?

A collaborative agreement to help local public housing authorities improve and promote energy efficiency and water conservation in public housing, between the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Office of Public and Indian Housing and the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Building Technology, State and Community Programs. The primary objective is to develop up to 28 case studies demonstrating how energy efficiency and water conservation can be successfully implemented within public housing authorities.

What are the benefits?

Housing authorities receive many benefits from energy-efficiency and water-conservation projects. In addition to energy savings and reduced operating costs, these projects can help housing authorities complete needed capital projects, develop additional sources of capital funding, use capital funds for other projects, reduce occupant complaints, improve occupant comfort and lower maintenance costs

Why should my housing authority get involved?

This is not a grants program. By participating with DOE and HUD on this collaboration, a housing authority can receive non-monetary assistance to help initiate, implement, and successfully complete and publicize its energy-efficiency and water-conservation project.

Through its Rebuild America program, DOE will help housing authorities identify and organize energy projects, develop action plans, identify community resources, engage private business support, solve issues, interact with their peers, and publicize successes. Rebuild America will also be able to help housing authorities work closely and cooperatively with state HUD offices, local and state Weatherization Assistance Programs, and DOE program offices.

The types of technical assistance a housing authority might receive include:

- help with energy benchmarking or energy audit reviews to identify suitable projects
- assistance with calculations and technical reviews for performance contracts
- engineering analysis to support the use of HUD's add-on subsidy or rate-reduction energy incentives
- help from DOE technical experts to implement DOE technologies in public housing
- bulk purchasing opportunities
- assistance with aggregating for joint utility purchases
- training

Which housing authorities should apply?

DOE and HUD want to work with all public housing authorities especially those of small and medium size. They are interested in housing authorities that are self-motivated,

willing to explore innovative approaches to reducing utility costs, and committed to

implementing energy-efficiency and water-conservation projects now.

What kind of projects are DOE and HUD interested in?

DOE and HUD want to:

- 1. Further demonstrate how housing authorities can use HUD's energy incentives to make energy and water improvements and reduce utility costs. This includes negotiating lower utility rates (especially when housing authorities have aggregated themselves into a larger purchasing block), entering into performance contracts, or implementing projects with an add-on HUD subsidy.
- 2. Demonstrate use of aggregated procurement or bulk purchasing to reduce costs of energy-efficient equipment.
- 3. Demonstrate collaborations between public housing authorities and local agencies implementing the DOE Weatherization Assistance Programs.
- 4. Field test in public housing buildings new DOE technologies such as lighting,

- windows, appliances, heating and cooling equipment, and distributed power generation.
- 5. Demonstrate cooperative efforts with HUD's Community Builders.
- 6. Demonstrate resident energy- and water-related skills training programs that provide economic and employment benefits to residents while achieving an energy efficiency or water conservation benefit for the housing authority.

How do I find out more?

First, visit DOE's Rebuild America web site at www.eren.doe.gov/buildings/rebuild. Then contact Mark Ternes, Rebuild America's Public Housing Sector Manager at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, at 865-574-0749 or ternesmp@ornl.gov.